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Leadville, Colorado  
April 6, 1915

Mr Frank Bond,

U. S. Geographic Board, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Your letter of March 3<sup>d</sup> was received some time ago, and the delay in reply is due to my isolation out in the mountains, inclement weather and bad roads.

My letter to Mr. Grosvenor was suggested by Mr. North's memorial in the National Geographic Magazine. I did not know that it was a necessary abridgment. When I received the Memorial in full I found that a mountain in Wyoming had been named Mt. Gannett. My den, or library, out here is well supplied with Geological Survey publications.

From one of them I learned, this morning, that a mountain in Alaska was named Mt. Gannett. Had I known these facts it is probable I would not have written as I did.

It is possible that time may bring prominence to those sections of our country, but as conditions exist today Mr. Gannett's name might just as well been applied to a peak a thousand feet under the sea.

2)

It is customary to place constructed Memorials in public places, and a natural monument to be effective should be where "folks most do congregate". The Saguache Range from Mt. of the Holy Cross to the Cochetope hill is a long mountain averaging 14000 feet above sea level.

Naturally, the peaks and domes are but a few hundred feet above this average. Nevertheless it is this area above timber-line that instantly attracts attention.

It is the peaks that interests all. People care little for Pikes Mountain. It is the Peak, the summit that attracts them.

In the early days (35 years ago) we built a boulevard 50 feet wide from Leadville across the valley to the lakes, soda, iron and other springs at <sup>the</sup> foot of Mt. Massive. This soon connected with a public road via the U.S. fish hatchery making a drive way known as the loop. The local and a little tourist patronage sustained two hotels on this boulevard the year around.

A public highway and two trans-continental rail ways cross the range up this valley.

3)

One of them, the C. & S., runs around the east and up the north side of Mt. Massive. This makes the Summit easy of access in that way.

It is certain that an auto road will loop the mountain around and over the top, and possibly an aviators landing and station will also be there in time.

It seemed to me that a monument ~~to~~ and memorial tablet on the peak I mentioned, the highest in the state, would perpetuate the name of the man who devised a system of Geographic Science and educational map-making that will endure as long as the world lasts.

As this does not seem advisable to the Board, and in view of the difficulties mentioned in my letter referred to you, would it not be well to give his name to one of the most interesting peaks in one of our National Parks?

This would come within the purview of your Board.

Respectfully Yours,

R. E. Taft,

Leadville,

Colorado.